



NEWS RELEASE

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Two Charged With Murder of Transient Outside of Los Angeles Fast Food Restaurant

Two homeless men were charged today with murdering another transient outside a fast food restaurant in downtown Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Joseph Johnson (dob 3/17/74) and Derek Miller (dob 7/23/85) were each charged with one count of murder in case BA433582. They are expected to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

On Feb. 7, the two defendants are accused of getting into a fight with Derrick Hamilton, 45, in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant in the 700 block of Cesar Chavez Avenue.

Both Johnson and Miller allegedly beat and stomped the victim. Prosecutors said Miller's dog also attacked Hamilton, who was taken to a hospital where he died.

If convicted as charged, both Johnson and Miller face a possible maximum sentence of 25 years to life in state prison.

Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at more than \$1 million for both Johnson and Miller.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.